



INSTITUT
SIMONE DE
INSTITUTE

INSTITUT SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE

information bulletin

<http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/wsdh>

Issue 1. October 2005

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The 2005-2006 academic year has started with a (quantitative and qualitative) bang. The number of program students – majors, minors, Specialization and certificate candidates – has risen more than 12% over last year (163 of them, mostly majors). Between the new summer section of Intro to Women's Studies II and an additional section of that course for each semester, as well as the appeal of the rest of the curriculum, we've racked up more enrollments in our courses than ever before (366 registrations this term and nearly as many signed up already for next term!)

In addition to the Core Curriculum (Intro I and II, Feminist Thought I and II, Feminisms and Research Methods, Women and Peace, Health Issues: Feminist Perspectives, Feminist Ethics, and Feminist Perspectives on Culture, we are offering a combination of old and new electives. In the Fall semester, the repeats are Black Women's Culture, Introduction to Trans Studies, Feminist Theory and Popular Culture, Women and Globalization, and Postcolonialisms and Feminisms, the new ones being Boys Dudes and Men: Feminist Perspectives on Masculinities, and Feminist Perspectives on Genocide. In the Winter term, from our list of successful past electives, we're offering Controversies in Feminism, Queer Feminism, Feminism, Race and Racism, Women Organizing Resistance and Change Cross-Culturally, and Deviant Bodies, and introducing a new course, Girlhood: Socialization and Sexualization.

"Girlhood" is team-taught by Lilia Goldfarb, who's doing research on these issues for her Ph.D. in the Special Individualized Programs and Sophie Bissonette, the distinguished Québécoise feminist

filmmaker (she's done, among others, the biographical films on Léa Roback and Madeleine Parent, and *Partition pour voix de femmes*, about the World March of Women.)

In addition to the traditional reading-discussion format, the course includes working with Sophie on a documentary about adolescent girls' sexuality. Since she can't teach filmmaking along with the academic content, she has arranged an extraordinary opportunity for Institute students: those enrolled in the class without adequate previous experience will be offered a complementary course in basic film skills taught through the National Film Board's Parole Citoyenne initiative. There are still some places left in this exciting course for those who register soon and are prepared to devote 15 hours outside of class time to this additional workshop.

Our agenda for the year includes plans for the new M.A. program and overhauling the curriculum, including changes to the core requirements for majors and minors and a full-blown Internship program. I hope you'll want to participate in these projects, as well as taking part in the ongoing (and, this year, exceptionally rich) program of Research Seminars, lectures, and book launches described elsewhere in this newsletter. And then there's International Women's Day when, for the first time, the Institute is joining with the citywide Femmes de Diverses Origines to present a program including spectacular international and Canadian speakers. If you're interested in working on this event, please contact Marie-Claire at 848-2424 ext. 2373.

Lillian S. Robinson, Principal

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE OFFICE HOURS

General Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00– 6:00, Thursday: 9:00-4:30, Friday: 9:00-4:00

Academic Advisor (Linda Bowes):

Monday-Thursday: 9:00-4:30, Friday: 9:00-4:00

Communications Officer/Office Secretary (M-C MacPhee):

Monday-Wednesday: 11:00-6:00, Thursday: 9:00-1:00

INSTITUTE FACULTY AND STAFF 2005 – 2006

Lillian S. Robinson:

Principal and Professor – Women and Globalization, Feminist Perspectives on Culture.

Office Hours: Tues. 4:00-6:00 or by appointment, MU-201-3. 848-2424 ext. 2372, robinson@vax2.concordia.ca

Chantal Maille:

Associate Professor – Introduction to Women's Studies I & II, Feminist Ethics, Women and Peace.

Office Hours: Tues. 10:00-11:00 or by appointment, MU-302. 848-2424 ext. 2380, cmaille@vax2.concordia.ca

Viviane Namaste:

Assistant Professor – Feminist Thought I & II, Health Issues: Feminist Perspectives.

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 2:30 - 3:30, MU-301. 848-2424 ext. 2371, viviane@vax2.concordia.ca

Alexander Antonopoulos:

Part-Time Faculty – Introduction to Women's Studies I, Queer Feminism.

Office: MU-403-4. 848-2424 ext. 2378, alexandr@vax2.concordia.ca

Michiko Aramaki:

Part-Time Faculty – Introduction to Women's Studies I & II, Feminisms & Research Methods.

Office Hours: Mon. 1:15-2:15 & Tues. 11:45-12:45, MU-301-4. 848-2424 ext. 2375, maramaki@alcor.concordia.ca

Trish Salah:

Part-Time Faculty – Introduction to Trans Studies.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 3:00-4:00, MU-303. 848-2424 ext. 2375, trishsalah@yahoo.ca

Brenda Rowe:

Part-Time Faculty – Black Women's Culture, Feminism, Race and Racism.

Office Hours: Thurs. 8:00-9:00. 457-6610 ext. 5300, brendarowe@johnabbott.qc.ca

Karin Doerr:

Part-Time Faculty – Feminist Perspectives on Genocide.

Office: H-438. 848-2424 ext. 2486, kdoerr@alcor.concordia.ca

Robyn Diner:

Part-Time Faculty - Boys, Dudes and Men: Feminist Perspectives on Masculinities, Pop Culture.

Office Hours: by appointment. robynd@sympatico.ca

Candis Steenbergen:

Part-Time Faculty – Boys, Dudes and Men: Feminist Perspectives on Masculinities, Deviant Bodies,

Controversies in Feminism. Office Hours: by appointment. candis.steenbergen@sympatico.ca

Tanisha Ramachandran:

Part-Time Faculty – Postcolonialisms and Feminisms

Office Hours: Wed: 5:00-6:00, MU-201-4. tanisha@videotron.ca

Deidre Butler:

Part-Time Faculty – Women Organizing Resistance and Change Across Cultures

Office Hours: by appointment. deidreb@videotron.ca

Lilia Goldfarb:

Part-Time Faculty - Girlhood: Socialization and Sexualization.

Office Hours: by appointment. lilia.goldfarb@sympatico.ca

Sophie Bissonette:

Part-Time Faculty - Girlhood: Socialization and Sexualization.

Office Hours: by appointment.

Linda Bowes: Academic Advisor. 848-2424 ext. 2370, belinda@vax2.concordia.ca

Marie-Claire MacPhee: Communications Officer. 848-2424 ext. 2373, m_macphee@alcor.concordia.ca

Cristina Flores: Documentalist. 848-2424 ext. 2377, clflores_@hotmail.com

Christina Foisy: Part-Time Documentalist. 848-2424 ext. 2377

Women's Studies Students Association

WSSA members are active representatives of Concordia's Women's Studies program. We support interdisciplinary scholarship and creative endeavors that highlight social injustices pertinent to gender, class, race and ability inequalities. *Subversions* is our journal of gender and sexuality that publishes literary as well as critical texts, photography, artwork and illustrations.

Also, in collaboration with other student associations, we encourage Montreal community organizations, such as Head and Hands and Chez Doris with fundraising events (clothing swaps and concerts) to help implement their social projects. Of course, this year we want to expand our efforts by getting in touch with new ideas and media. So get involved and apply what you've been learning in class.

GET INVOLVED WITH WSSA

We could use some media savvy people who'd like to help keep us visible with mini-documentaries, website maintenance/graphics, publicity, writing and editing, poster making, photography etc. Public speakers who are dying to MC and promote parties should definitely check us out. There are plenty of Dragball celebrations, back to school bashes, Clothing Swaps, Fundraisers, Open Forums and more to plan.

This year WSSA wants to bring at least one or two lecturers (anywhere from academics to DIY feminist magazine publishers) to the Women's Studies department. We need people with ideas, contacts and motivation to make this a reality and tradition at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. We need financial folks who know how to fundraise and help struggling organizations (such as the Women's Studies documentation center, and CO-OP bookstore) thrive.

Leah Quimby → President,
leahquimby@yahoo.ca

Talia Kleinplatz → Vice President,
rdwesternwest@hotmail.com

Tifanie Valade → Communications,
nerdy_grrl@hotmail.com

Christina Foisy → ASFA Liason & Subversions
editor, seefoisy@hotmail.com

Phone: 848-2424 ext. 2373

Email: wssa_journal@yahoo.com

A Welcoming Word from the Reading Room

If you are looking for resources to help inspire your research, seeking a quiet place to read, or hoping to discuss whatever pressing issues arise in your classes, new and returning students are strongly encouraged to come warm a seat at the Reading Room on the 4th floor of the SdeB Institute.

A resource unto itself, the Reading Room has a unique collection of community newspapers, feminist and academic journals, and videos, as well as a room filled with a bunch of books you might not find anywhere else. A wide range of topics from the history of Iroquoian Women or the history of Women's Studies to the more locally-specific as the History of Transsexual Artists in Montreal are a few among the many books anxiously waiting your arrival.

If you have any questions, you are more than welcome to call me, Cristina Flores, or better yet, stop by! Looking forward to meeting new students and seeing old faces. Once again, welcome.

READING ROOM HOURS ~ FALL 2005

Monday: 12:15-5:15

Tuesday: 10:15-5:15

Wednesday: 10:15-5:15

Thursday: 10:15-5:15

Friday: 10:00-5:00

* If the Reading Room is closed, books may be returned during office hours to the book slot on the 4th floor.

* You may contact the Reading Room at
848-2424 ext. 2377

UPCOMING INSTITUTE MEETINGS

Ethics Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, October 25, 2005. 12:00pm

Curriculum Committee Meeting:
Monday, October 31, 2005. 10:30am

Graduate Program Committee Meeting:
Monday, November 14, 2005. 10:30am

For more information about these meetings contact
Lillian or Marie-Claire at:
848-2424 ext. 2372 or 2373

THINGS WE ARE PROUD OF!

RESEARCH GRANTS AND PROJECTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, VIVIANE NAMASTE

My first project examines the HIV prevention needs of individuals who have sex with both men and women. There are few studies that address this issue, whether in Québec, Canada or internationally. It is also extraordinarily difficult to find HIV prevention education which explicitly addresses these realities. And finally, most of the existing research only considers men: public health studies examine the sexual practices of men who have sex with men, but completely ignore the relations that these men may also have with women. The lives of women who have sexual relations with both men and women are also overlooked.

The research, then, involves interviews with both men and women about what they see as the main gaps in existing prevention. A community based advisory committee will then take this data and use it to create relevant HIV prevention education. This is an action research project that wants to intervene in the existing situation. The research is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

My second research project examines the censorship of popular culture in Québec during the period of 1955-1975, with a particular focus on yellow newspapers. Yellow newspapers were inexpensive gossip magazines that everyday people read. They contained all kinds of information about Montréal, especially its artists, cabarets and nightlife. These magazines were an object of attack by religious reformers in the province, as well as Montréal mayor Jean Drapeau.

The project traces the history and workings of this censorship, including the central role that women played in advocating for such censorship. It offers a new contribution to historical studies of censorship, which tend to focus on objects of "high" culture such as literature and cinema. This research is supported by the Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CHANTAL MAILLE

**Projet "Citoyenneté,
questionnements identitaires et représentation
politique: qu'en disent les femmes au Canada?"**

CRSH 2002-2005

Je travaille à finaliser un ouvrage qui présente l'ensemble de cette recherche, dont l'objectif était de réfléchir sur la complexité des questions en lien avec la représentation politique, dont celle des identités et de la citoyenneté. J'ai analysé les textes de nature théorique qui abordent ces questions et effectué une synthèse de la littérature canadienne sur le thème des identités collectives en lien avec la représentation politique des femmes. Enfin, j'ai rencontré un échantillon d'organisations, groupes, partis politiques qui travaillent sur le thème de la représentation politique des femmes au Canada. Il est ressorti dans l'analyse que le Canada est une formation où les stratégies destinées à modifier les termes de la représentation politique des femmes sont multiples.

J'ai également noté les dynamiques propres au Québec, aux communautés autochtones et au Canada anglais quant aux moyens mis de l'avant pour modifier les termes de la représentation politique des femmes. À partir de l'expertise développée dans cette recherche, j'ai établi des liens de collaboration et d'échange avec deux groupes de femmes, l'un actif au Québec, Féminisme et démocratie, et l'autre pan-canadien, *Equal Voice*. Enfin, il appert que les réflexions des féministes sur l'identité rendent incontournable un exercice d'élargissement de la formation canadienne et des problématiques identitaires qu'elle recèle (Bannerji, Dhruvarajan, Gunew (2004) et Maillé (1999)), que je définis en m'inspirant de notions telles l'hybridité (Simon) et le bricolage conceptuel (Braidotti).

CONGRATULATIONS!

The American Sociological Association, Section on the History of Sociology, presented the **DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** to Institute Fellow **SUSAN HOECKER-DRYSDALE**, University of Iowa and Concordia University, for her exceptional scholarship and leadership in the History of Sociology. This award was presented on August 15, 2005 at the ASA Centennial Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

JOANNA CAMPBELL, a student in Michiko Aramaki's Introduction to Women's Studies II class (winter, 2005) won the **Canadian Women's Studies Association's** prize for the **BEST UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY IN THE FIELD**. The prize entails a cash award, an invitation to read the paper at next years CWSA/ACEF conference in Toronto, and a grant to help defray travel expenses to the convention.

SHIRIN EBADI

Nobel Peace Prize 2003, Concordia LL.D. 2005

Feminist issues were highlighted at this past June's Convocation as Concordia awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws to Shirin Ebadi. The 2003 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize was nominated for the degree by Principal Lillian Robinson, writing on behalf of the Institute and putting the nomination together with the research backup of Roksana Bahramitash.

At graduation, Robinson read the citation spelling out why we were paying tribute to this brave woman, who has been imprisoned in her home country, Iran, for her tireless work on behalf of women's and children's rights. Part of Robinson's speech quoted—in French—Ebadi's acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize:

If the 21st century wishes to free itself from the cycle of violence, acts of terror and war, and avoid repetition of the experience of the 20th century—that most disaster-ridden century of humankind—there is no other way except by understanding and putting into practice every human right for all mankind, irrespective of race, gender, faith, nationality or social status.

The entire citation will soon appear on the Institute web site, along with photos from the graduation itself and Ebadi's last-minute visit to the Institute for a brief meeting with feminist and other human rights activists.

UPDATED INSTITUTE WEBSITE

For those of you who have not been on our web site recently, you'll be pleased to know that there are some great new features. For one, Linda has changed the entire format of the site and has added a number of new interesting and informative pages.

We have also recently hired Mélanie Hogan, a former Simone de Beauvoir Institute student and current MA student in Media Studies, as our Web and Design T.A.

Mél has created the very helpful 'syllabi' page on the website. This page allows you to access information such as; research areas, office hours and contact information about each of our professors. It also has a link to the syllabus for each of the courses that we are offering this year.

Please check out our newly formatted website as well as this very helpful webpage at:

<http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/wsdb/>

If you have any questions for Mél, you can contact her at: info@melhogan.com

STUDENT AWARDS

At the Institute's Student Orientation on September 21, 2005, Lillian Robinson awarded five of our students, the
Provost's Entrance Scholarships.

These recipients were:

**Sarah Beall
Jocelyn Conway
Shailagh Keaney
Rebecca Reeves
Bianca Tetrault**

Congratulations!

At the upcoming Arts and Science Scholarship Event (scheduled for Nov. 2, 2005), Institute student

Brenda Labelle
Will be designated an
Arts and Science Scholar

And

Women's Studies Scholarships
in the Arts and Science Faculty will be awarded to:

**Carolyn McCarthy and
Marni Kellison**

Great Work!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is proud to host a **BOOK LAUNCH** for:

**SEX CHANGE, SOCIAL CHANGE:
REFLECTIONS ON IDENTITY, INSTITUTIONS AND IMPERIALISM**

BY VIVIANE NAMASTE

Monday, October 24, 2005.

Simone de Beauvoir Institute, 2170 Bishop, MU-101, 7:00pm

"This is a provocative, thoughtful book that challenges readers to think carefully about human rights, feminism, lesbian and gay struggles, and current transgender politics. Namaste's essays make up a useful collection, suitable for courses in Women's Studies, Gender Studies, Sexuality Studies, Sociology, and Canadian Studies."- Dr. Meg Luxton, Director, Women's Studies, York University.

HIV/AIDS LECTURE SERIES

"SEXUAL PRACTICE, SEXUAL POLITICS"

PATRICK CALIFIA

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W, Hall Building, Room H-110. 6:00pm

Patrick Califa is an internationally known sex and gender radical and author of many fiction and nonfiction books on the politics of sexuality and gender. His lecture will be a cautionary manifesto linking the socio-cultural practice of safer sex within the SM community and the larger political context of U.S. government policy around AIDS and sexuality. Pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable to talk about, write down, or even think about, Califa has challenged our culture's ideas of appropriate expression and self-exploration.

BOOK LAUNCH

LIBERATION FROM LIBERALIZATION: GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BY ROKSANA BAHRAMITASH

Monday, November 28, 2005

Simone de Beauvoir Institute, 2170 Bishop, Room MU-101, 7:00pm

Bahramitash argues that, ultimately, the only way to stop liberalization, which is trapping millions in poverty, is to limit the role of markets through an elected and responsible state with embedded members of civil society, such as women's groups. Her book argues in favor of a system that incorporates women's groups into the decision-making process of the state while making sure the state remains both transparent and subject to the political advocacy of its citizens.

SEXUALITY RESEARCH SEMINAR

DOUGLAS VICTOR JANOFF

Ottawa-based author/researcher and Concordia graduate, will present and discuss his new book,

PINK BLOOD: HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN CANADA (University of Toronto Press, 2005).

Friday, November 25, 2005.

Simone de Beauvoir Institute, 2170 Bishop, Room MU-101, 4:00pm.

One of a series of Friday afternoon research seminars sponsored by the Program in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality.

Co-hosted by the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Everyone welcome.

<http://www.pinkblood.ca> or <http://cinema.concordia.ca/sexuality>

SdB INSTITUTE SEMINAR SERIES

ROBYN DINER

Part time Faculty, Simone de Beauvoir Institute

WHITE HOT HIP HOP: FROM EMINEM TO PRINCESS SUPERSTAR

Friday, November 25, 2005.

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute
2170 Bishop, MU-101, 1:30 - 3:00pm

Dr. Diner teaches courses such as "Popular Culture and Feminist Theory," "Controversies in Feminism," and "Boys, Dudes Men: Feminist Perspectives on Masculinities" at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Diner's current research project is titled: *From Blaxploitation Hip to White Trash Chic: Bodies of Humor and Hyperbole in Pop Culture*.

APHRODITE DESIREE NAVAB

Research Associate, Simone de Beauvoir Institute

SUPER EAST-WEST WOMAN

Friday, December 2, 2005

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute
2170 Bishop, MU-101, 1:30 - 3:00

Dr. Navab is an Iranian-Greek-North American woman artist-scholar who uses image and word to investigate transnational and diasporic issues in art, cultural studies, women's studies and art education. She is currently Assistant Professor of Art in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Florida.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SDB INFO BULLETIN:

A number of years have passed since we last published an *SdB Institute Info Bulletin*. We hope to put out at least 3 bulletins per term, but in order to do this, we need your ideas and submissions! If there are themes you'd like us to follow, topics you'd like us to cover, or articles and announcements you'd like us to publish, please do not hesitate to send them in! Please contact me:

Marie-Claire MacPhee

Simone de Beauvoir Institute

Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve O,
MU-201-1, Montréal, Québec. H3G 1M8.

848-2424 ext. 2373

m_macphee@alcor.concordia.ca

<http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/wsdb>

COMMUNITY ANNOUCEMENTS

From the Canadian Women's Health Network:

The Fall 2005 issue of *Network Magazine*, the official publication of the Canadian Women's Health Network, is now available online.

For a full PDF version of the magazine, visit:

<http://www.cwhn.ca/network-reseau/8-12/network-vol8no12EN.pdf>

or in French at:

<http://www.cwhn.ca/network-reseau/8-12f/network-vol8no12FR.pdf>

From the Canadian Women's Health Network:

Just released! From the National Coordinating Group on
Health Care Reform and Women:

Primary Health Care Reform and Women: A Guide. Why are these women's issues and what are the issues for women?

Please let us know if you'd like a *free hard copy*, or *multiple copies*, free of charge, for distribution to your members and colleagues. We would be happy to provide them. Send us your preferred mailing address and the number of copies you'd like to receive to: cwhn@cwhn.ca or call: 1-888-818-9172.

The document is also available online in PDF format at:

http://www.cewhcsf.ca/PDF/health_reform/primaryCareEN.pdf

MCRTW Seminar Series:

Chris Beasley

Senior Lecturer, School of History and Politics,
University of Adelaide

**What Happens when Women's Studies
Becomes Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies?**

Thursday, November 3, 2005.

McGill, Wilson Hall, Room 105
3506 University Street.

IMAGE + NATION

Le festival international de cinéma LGBT de Montréal/
Montréal International LGBT Film Festival.

Cinémas le Parisien 2 + 6 + 7
November 3-13, 2005.

For a full schedule, go to: www.image-nation.org

CONGRATULATIONS
VIVIANE AND ROKSANA
ON YOUR NEW PUBLICATIONS!

